



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## **PERTUSSIS CASES STILL ACTIVE IN SCHOOLS** *County Reports 14 New Cases of Whooping Cough*

The pertussis epidemic continues to sicken San Diego County children. The County's Health and Human Services Agency is reporting 14 new cases at schools where other children may have been exposed.

The number of whooping cough cases in the region jumped to 993 this week. San Diego County reported 143 confirmed cases of pertussis in 2009. The previous record year for cases was 2005 with 371 confirmed cases.

"While pertussis case typically peak during the summer months, we continue to see a high number of children getting sick," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. "We encourage parents to make sure their children are fully immunized."

Parents can get the vaccine from their primary care physician. Residents who do not have health care coverage may visit a HHSA Public Health Center.

The CDC recommends that children get one dose of DTaP vaccine at the following ages: 2 months; 4 months; 6 months; 15 to 18 months and 4 to 6 years.

The CDC also recommends that children receive a booster shot of Tdap vaccine at 10-11 yrs. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends an adolescent-adult pertussis booster vaccine (Tdap) for everyone 10 years or older who has not yet received it, especially women of childbearing age, before, during, or immediately after pregnancy; and other people, including household contacts, caregivers, and health care workers, who have contact with pregnant women or infants. Children 7-9 years of age who did not receive all of their routine childhood shots are recommended to receive a Tdap booster dose.

A typical case of pertussis in children and adults starts with a cough and runny nose for one-to-two weeks, followed by weeks to months of rapid coughing fits that sometimes end with a whooping sound. Fever, if present, is usually mild. The disease is treatable with antibiotics.

For more information about whooping cough, please call the HHSA Immunization Branch at (866) 358-2966, or visit the web site at [www.sdiz.org](http://www.sdiz.org).

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This week's new pertussis cases where there is a potential for public exposure are:

- A 12-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends Earl Warren Middle School in the San Dieguito Union High School District. Contact: Bruce Cochrane (760) 753-6491.
- An 11-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends PRIDE Academy at Prospect Avenue School in the Santee School District. Contact: Linda Vail (619) 258-2300.
- A 3-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Head Start Hickory Street in Escondido. Contact: Shahram Shafa (760) 738-5970.
- A 10-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends James Duke Elementary School in the Ramona Unified School District. Contact: Robert Graeff (760) 787-2007.
- A 10-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends San Elijo Elementary School in the San Marcos Unified School District. Contact: Rick White (760) 752-1221.
- A 9-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Myrtle Finney Elementary School in the Chula Vista Elementary School District. Contact: Anthony Millican (619) 425-9600 ext. 1328.
- A 3-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Hanna Fenichel Center in Solana Beach. Contact: Sarah Hillier (858) 755-0860.
- A 3-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Notre Dame Academy in Carmel Valley. Contact: Ursula Segura (858) 509-2300.
- A 5-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Kelly Elementary School in the Carlsbad Unified School District. Contact: Joan Roach (760) 331-5002.
- A 14-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends Perkins Elementary School in the San Diego Unified School District. Contact: Linda Zintz (619) 725-5568.
- A 15-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends Serra High School in the San Diego Unified School District. Contact: Linda Zintz (619) 725-5568.
- A 9-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Nichols Elementary School in the Oceanside Unified School District. Contact: Steve Lombard (760) 966-4070.
- A 4-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Los Ninos Head Start in Escondido. Contact: Shahram Shafa (760) 738-5970.
- A 10-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Skyline Elementary School in the Solana Beach School District. Contact: Leslie Fausset (858) 794-7104.